

Message Text

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67

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 MC-02 IO-03 RSR-01 /058 W

----- 036514

R 091245Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4328

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12323

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJ: MR 2 SITREP JULY 9

HEREWITH REPEAT OF NHA TRANG MESSAGE 0679 FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 0679

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 SIT REP, JULY 9

1. SECURITY SITUATION: NEARLY HALF OF ALL THE INCIDENTS
REPORTED IN MR 2 DURING THE PAST 72 HOURS OCCURRED IN KONTUM:
22 OF A TOTAL OF 45. INCIDENTS IN THE OTHER 11 PROVINCES OF THE
REGION WERE SCATTERED AND SMALL-SCALE; SEVEN IN BINH DINH, SIX
IN BINH THUAN, FOUR IN PHU BON, TWO EACH IN PHU YEN AND TUYEN
DUC, AND ONE EACH IN KHANH HOA AND QUANG DUC. REPORTED
CASUALTIES ALSO REFLECT THE INTENSITY OF FIGHTING IN
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KONTUM IN CONTRAST TO REST OF REGION: VC/NVA: 60 KIA (37 IN

KONTUM), NINE CAPTURED; RVNAF: 20 KIA (18 IN KONTUM), 84 WIA (73 IN KONTUM), AND 12 MISSING (SIX IN KONTUM). THE 45 INCIDENTS INCLUDED: 16 ENEMY ATTACKS BY FIRE, 13 GROUND ASSAULTS, EIGHT FIREFIGHTS BETWEEN ENEMY AND RVNAF UNITS ON PATROL, FOUR MININGS, THREE SUCCESSFUL RVNAF SEARCH OPERATIONS, AND ONE INCIDENT INVOLVING A POSSIBLE PSDF DEFECTION IN WHICH FIVE ADOLESCENT PSDF IN BINH THUAN WERE REPORTED MISSING WITH THEIR WEAPONS ON THE MORNING AFTER A NIGHT AMBUSH, INVOLVING NO CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY, IN WHICH THEY PARTICIPATED.

2. THE KONTUM INCIDENTS WERE ALL LISTED AS ENEMY ATTACKS BY FIRE AND GROUND ASSAULTS FOLLOWED BY RVNAF REACTION, OR FIREFIGHTS. NEARLY ALL INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN THE VICINITY OF TRUNG NGHIA VILLAGE AND, JUDGING FROM HIGH CASUALTIES ON THE RVNAF SIDE, STIFF ENEMY RESISTANCE AGAINST COUNTER-ATTACK CONTINUED UNABATED. OTHER KONTUM INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN AREAS WITHIN A 10 KM RADIUS OF TRUNG NGHIA TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH BUT, TO DATE, THE ENEMY HAS NOT MADE GOOD HIS THREAT TO REVENGE VNAF BOMBING OF DAK TO AIRSTRIP BY SHELLING KONTUM CITY AND OTHER GVN "REAR AREAS."

3. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE WHICH WAS OBTAINED FROM THE MR 2 NHA TRANG OPERATIONS CENTER SITUATION REPORT, CONSUL PLEIKU/ KONTUM REPORTED ON JULY 9 THAT ARVN FORCES IN THE KONTUM BATTLE SUFFERED VERY HEAVY CASUALTIES ON JULY 6 WHEN, AMONG OTHER INCIDENTS, TWO COMPANIES TO THE NORTH OF TRUNG NGHIA WERE FORCED BACK ONE KILOMETER BY NVA ATTACKS. SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JULY 7 AND 8, WERE RELATIVELY QUIET, HOWEVER, WITH BAD WEATHER PREVENTING ANY AIRSTRIKES. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN CONTINUING INCIDENTS AND CONTACTS (2 OR 3 A DAY) TO THE SOUTHWEST OF KONTUM CITY, BUT THE PF THERE APPEAR TO BE HOLDING WELL. THE CITY ITSELF REMAINS CALM WITH NO SIGNS OF PANIC DESPITE THE HEAVY FIGHTING NEARBY.

4. ICCS: INDONESIAN ICCS DELEGATE, AMBASSADOR DHARSANO, WHO WAS VISITING NHA TRANG FROM SAIGON, TOLD THE ACTING CONSUL GENERAL ON JULY 7 THAT INDONESIA DID NOT WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE ON THE ICCS WITH THE HUNGARIANS AND EVEN LESS WITH BOTH THE HUNGARIANS AND POLES. IT MUCH PREFERENCES A FOUR PARTY COMMISSION TO A TWO PARTY ONE AND CERTAINLY TO A TRI-CONFIDENTIAL

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ANGULAR ORGANIZATION. DHARSANO CONTINUED, HOWEVER, THAT MALAYSIA WOULD PROBABLY NOT REPEAT NOT JOIN THE COMMISSION FOR FEAR OF ANTAGONIZING THE PRC, WITH WHICH IT IS MOVING TOWARD ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. HE ADDED THAT ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA WAS ALSO THE REAL REASON WHY JAPAN DECLINED MEMBERSHIP. MALAYSIA IN ADDITION WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SPARE THE NECESSARY OFFICERS BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS IN KALIMANTAN.

5. THE AMBASSADOR WOULD NOT ADMIT TO HAVING ANY FAVORITES FOR THE SOON-TO-BE-VACANT FOURTH SLOT AND IN FACT SAW NO STRONG CONTENDERS FOR THE POSITION.

6. CONSUL PHAN THIET REPORTS THAT THE CANADIANS AT ICCS REGION IV HEADQUARTERS HAVE BEEN FORBIDDEN BY THEIR COMMANDER TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE PHAN THIET FOR THE DURATION OF THEIR STAY IN VIET-NAM UNLESS THEY ARE ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS OR IN THE COMPANY OF OTHER ICCS DELEGATES. ONE CANDEL OFFICER PREDICTED THAT FURTHER UNOFFICIAL TRIPS WOULD MOST LIKELY NOT REPEAT NOT BE WORTH THE EFFORT REQUIRED TO ARRANGE THEM. COMMENT: THIS RESTRICTION HAS PRESUMABLY BEEN ORDERED IN RESPONSE TO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE TWO CANDELS IN ICCS REGION V. END COMMENT.

7. TPJMC: COL. NGUYEN MANH DINH, GVN REGION IV (PHAN THIET) TPJMC CHIEF, TOLD OUR CONSUL ON JULY 6 THAT THE PRG HAS NOT YET AGREED TO PLACE ITS REPRESENTATIVES IN THE FIELD IN GVN-CONTROLLED TERRITORY AND THAT THIS WAS A FACTOR HOLDING UP PROGRESS IN THE SAIGON TALKS. COL. DINH ADDED THAT THE DIFFICULTIES IN THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE SOLVED VERY QUICKLY, OR AGAIN, MIGHT DRAG ON FOR A LONG TIME.
TEARE
UNQUOTE.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON12323
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS WHITEHOUSE
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730746/aaaabhlz.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MR 2 SITREP JULY 9 HERewith REPEAT OF NHA TRANG MESSAGE 0679 FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005